



Building The Wireless Future™

Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association

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July 14, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte*
Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell
Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association ("CTIA"), through undersigned counsel, writes to urge the Commission to approve Guam Cellular and Paging, Inc. d/b/a Saipancell's ("Saipancell") Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Petition").

Through its Petition and supplemental filings, Saipancell has demonstrated that it meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for ETC designation. Furthermore, Saipancell has also demonstrated that its Petition will serve the public interest. As Saipancell notes, the Northern Mariana Islands – and in particular the Islands of Tinian and Rota – currently have very limited telecommunications options. The grant of Saipancell's ETC Petition would bring competition to Island residents, and greatly enhance the nature and quality of available telecommunications services. Accordingly, CTIA urges the Commission to grant the Saipancell ETC Petition as soon as possible.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Michael Altschul

